GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4768
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2000
IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY OF COTTON PRODUCTS
RASHID ALVI

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the imported cotton is being preferred to the indigenous cotton both on account of quality and price as reported in The Economic Times dated June 17, 2000;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government as in case of milk production;

(c) if so, whether there is any plan to improve quality and productivity of cotton and the textiles;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether pest resistant varieties of cotton seed are not available leading to import of cotton seeds from Monsanto through its associates, MAFCO in Maharashtra;

(f) if so, whether cotton research will be handled by the Textile Department in future;
(g) if so, the details thereof;
(h) whether the Government will pay attention for development of coir geo-textiles also; and
(i) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) Import of cotton is under Open General Licence(OGL) from April, 1994. From the budget for the year 1999-2000, import duty of 5.5% has been imposed. The user mills are free to import cotton to meet their requirement within the framework of the policy of the Government.

(b) to (d) The Technology Mission on Cotton Development has been launched on 21.02.2000 with the objectives ofresearch, dissemination of technology to farmers, mprovement in market infrastructure and modernisation of G & P factories for overall improvement in the productivity and quality of cotton. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched with effect from 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years for modernisation of textile and jute industries. A chain of testing laboratories have been set up to help industry in accessing the quality of textiles. For import of capital goods, the Export Promotionof Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme has been simplified.

(e) Resistant /tolerant varieties and hybrids of cotton are already available with respect to many pests/diseases viz. Jassids, White fly, Bollworms, Nematode, Verticillium wilt, Fusarium wilt, Root rot, Leaf curl virus etc.

(f) & (g) Research on improving quality and productivity of cotton crop is done under All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture(Department of Agricultural Research and Education). Special emphasis on research and development has been given under Mini Mission-I of the Technology Mission on Cotton Development.

(h) & (i) The Coir Board set up under the Coir Industry Act, 1953 has been undertaking various researchand development work and extension services for the development of the coir industry inter alia including the Coir Geo-textiles. In fact, India is an exporter of the Coir Geo-textiles and the export during 1998-99 was 1208 tons valued at Rs.546.91 lakh, which was a increase of63% in quantity and 75% in value over the preceding year. The major countries to which Coir Geo-textiles are exported include USA, Germany, Japan, UK, Netherlands, France, Belgium, Canada.